Ammonium-Phosphate (DAP) to meet the assessed agronomic requirements. However, on account of international trade commitments some quantity of urea is expected to be imported from rupee payment areas. The entire requirement of Muriate of Potash (MOP) is met by imports as there are no known commercially viable sources of this material in the country. To protect the interests of indigenous manufacturers, imported fertilizers are not released for sale as far as possible so long a indigenous stocks can meet the demand.

Time limit for commissioning of fertilizer plants at Babrala etc.

1794: SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any time limit was fixed for commissioning of the fertilizer plants to be set at Babrala, Shahjehanpur and Sawai Madhopur;

(b) if so, what was the time limit fixed for the purpose;

(c) whether ground work for laying the pipeline has been completed for the above plants so as to enable the Gas Authority of India to lay the pipeline; and .....

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and whether there is any loss as a result thereof?.. .. ..

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) and (b) After receiving the Letters of Intent, the promoters of the fertilizer plants have to take effective steps like acquisition of land, obtaining environmental clearance, making financial arrangements and concluding technical collaboration agreements. The zero date for the projects commences thereafter. Although no time limit is fixed, generally the time schedule for commissioning of the fertilizer plants including those at Babrala, Shahjahanpur and Sawai Modhopur is about 39 months from the zero date.

(c) Yes, sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Increase in Import of vegetable oils due to drought conditions

1795. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any increase in the imports of vegetable oils in the recent past due to drought conditions and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether all imported vegetable oils, gifts or commercial are being used for public distribution system in view of the shortages; and

(c) whether steps have been taken to ensure that imports are made from areas not affected by the Chernyl nuclear disaster in Europe?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) The quantity of edible oils imported by the State Trading Corporation during the last two years is as under:—

Oil year (Nov—Oct)	Quantity (Lakh MT)
1986-87	11.79
1987-88	14.97 (Prov.)

(b) The edible oils imported by STC is allocated to the States|Union Territories for distribution to the Consumers under Public Distribution System and to vanaspati industry for manufacture of vanaspati. The gifted oil is released mainly in oil producing States at prevailing market price.

(c) Steps are aken by STC to ensure that import of edible oils made from East|West Europe is strictly